



Columbarium and Memorial Garden

For More information, to sponsor or to donate, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the Bethel Office.

Name(s): _____

Best way to contact:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in:

- Sponsor Donation \$5,000
- Other Donation: \$ _____
- Purchasing a niche when available

I have questions:

- Please contact me

My question(s): _____

Frequently Asked Questions

Two Columbarium structures with 48 niches each are planned. Each niche may hold one or two urns.

The Columbariums are made completely from granite and weigh several tons.

Columbariums will take 60-90 days to be made and shipped.

Robinson Monuments of Noblesville is allowing us to buy directly from the supplier lowering the cost, and they will etch the face plates. (They did the tree plaques on the Peace Trail.)

The Columbariums will be installed with a crane on concrete 30” deep pads.

The only permits needed appear to be a construction permit.

The Committee, with legal advice, has developed the documentation, record keeping procedures, and purchase agreements.

The committee is seeking Sponsor Donors, who are willing to donate \$5,000, to help fund the project quickly.

Sponsor Donors will have first choice of niche locations on the Columbariums prior to general sales.

Donations of any amount will be very much appreciated.

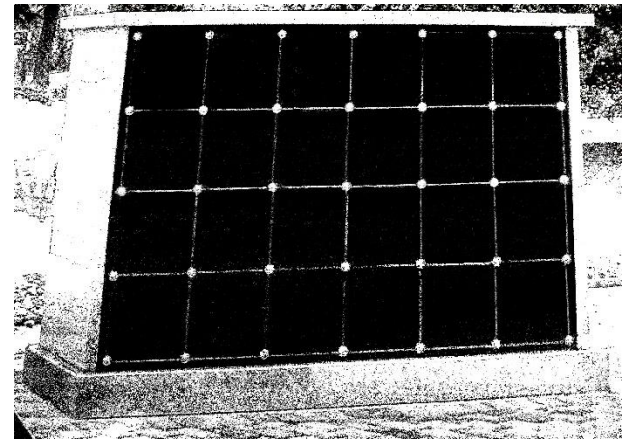
Fundraising for construction must be completed before the general sales begin.

Niches need to be paid for at the time of the agreement being signed. Location will be selected at this point.

Please clearly mark donations as “Columbarium Project” on your check and on the envelope. Please make sure the donation is in an envelope and clearly marked!



**Columbarium
and
Memorial Garden**



Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

Psalm 116:15 (NIV)

My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:2-3 (NIV)

www.bethellutheranchurch.com

Columbarium - A final, peaceful, resting place for a person's cremated ashes to be placed.

Why a Columbarium?

1. Cremation has become a much more common form of final resting place in the United States. Over 50% of all burials are now cremations.
2. Columbariums are replacing "church cemeteries" because they take up little space, while providing a peaceful, meaningful, final resting place with their church family. Additionally, the Old Bethel (Zimmer) Cemetery is completely full and has no space left.
3. A Columbarium Garden will beautify the Narthex garden area and east side of the church property, and provide another reason for potential new Bethel members, showing Bethel as a "lifetime church," which includes their final resting place. Bethel members will have an option to make it their final home. This area will be a quiet, reflective space for Bethel members and their families to enjoy.
4. There is significant interest in this project. At this point, several sponsor donors have come forward to support the project. With the money from the Dave Nee Memorial fund, which Jane has asked be used for the Columbarium, we have raised just over half the money we have budgeted to complete the project this year. Several other members have expressed their desire to be a sponsor donor of \$5,000, and finally, there are multiple members who currently have family member cremains at their home, who would now be able to give them a permanent resting place.

Will the Columbarium be secure?

The Columbarium Garden area is not currently projected to be surrounded by a fence with locked gate. It will be thoroughly screened from 206th St. with ample landscaping to provide a quiet garden space and create an appropriate setting. The Safety and Security Committee is working on an enhanced security system including sensors and cameras at strategic locations, one of which would be the Columbarium Garden area.

How will I get out to the Columbarium?

The main access point from the church will be through the Narthex door on the east side of the Narthex. You will also be able to exit through the Fellowship Hall doors to get there. The Peace Trail extension, which is a small part of this project, will also provide easy accessibility from the remote gravel parking lot and from the front door of the church. The extension will come through the grass on the east side of the church, passing by the Garden area and continue around to the concrete entry pad by the front door.

Will I be able to plant flowers and memorial plants in the Garden area?

The planting activity will be controlled by the Columbarium Committee. The goal is to develop a regular program to have seasonal flowers planted by volunteers during the year. The landscaping being proposed for the project will focus on a variety of colorful or unique plantings to make the Garden area live up to its name.

Are donations tax-deductible?

Deductibility is limited to that part of the total donation that doesn't include purchasing niche space. Sponsor Donors will receive a niche for two people as part of their donation, so the Fair Market Value of the niche is \$2,500, which

means they can deduce \$2,500 as a donation to the church.

How will it be maintained?

As with many things at Bethel, the hope is we will have a strong volunteer group to maintain the area at a high level. It is not a large area, and the plants that will be selected partially will be due to their ease of maintenance. Water, possibly an irrigation system will be available to keep everything healthy.

What happens if the church no longer exists as an entity?

If that were to ever happen, the church would be responsible for contacting family/descendants and making arrangements for a new location where individual urns will be placed, or if possible, to move the entire structure. (Included in niche cost.)

How many Columbariums will we have?

We are budgeting to acquire two structures. Each structure has 48 niches for a total of 96. This means that up to 192 individuals can be interred there.

What happens when the Columbariums are filled?

Part of the reason we chose the location for the Garden is that it affords us expandability in that same area. We believe, based on measurements taken, that we could have as many as 6 structures in this area. Granted, it would lose a little of its greenspace, but the surrounding plant material will remain in place and continue to provide that screened, privatized feeling. Six structures would allow up to 576 individuals to be interred in that area. At that point, we believe the grounds on the east side would accommodate further expansion, but that would likely be a very long time from now.